To the Select Men of Boston

Gentlemen

Besides an Applic
cation to yr. Friendship made last Fall while
I was in the Provost's at Boston, Mrs. Lovell, I
believe, can show the Copy of a second Proof of my
Confidence in you since my Imprisonment at
Halifax; and, I now proceed to give you a Tes-
timony of it's Continuance in Vigor, by desi-
ring you to represent to proper Authority—That,
The Treatment of Prisoners here is not only scan-
dalous by neglecting all Distinction of Rank, but
is also murderous by joining the Nuisances
and Infection of an Hospital to the Confinement
and common Miseries of a Jail:—That, We have
been even 36, and are now 30 in a single leaky
Room, the Floor our Bedstead, a thin Flockbed
and Pair of Blankets being the best Provision for
Two:—That, One has lingered & died in our Sight
thro' Want of proper Nourishment, and, One has

been long near the Point of Death, not allowed the Comforth of Removal to a convenient Place of Attendance; while, several with Fevers go in continual Rotation to a Tub thro' the Night, when we are close Lockt in.

I am aware that the Humanity & Education of the Colonists will make them backward to retaliate these Things: And, I suppose that all the Enemy-Chiefs do not conduct with y.e same wanton or willful Cruelty. Therefore, I cannot pretend to point out such a general Alteration of the exceeding kind Treatment & Distinction which is shown to Prisoners in the several united Colonies. But, I cannot help wishing that some particular Officers, of like Rank with Coll.e Allen, Cap.t Procter, Master Howland and his Mate Taylor, in Conjunction with some Privates & a Counter Part to poor Carpenter and myself, may be brought to wish for an Exchange & to petition Gen.l Howe for it: or, at least,

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to remonstrate to him upon the Provocation which he has given for an Alteration of their Limits, Lodging & Diet. I mention Gen.l Howe, because, the military Command here is left with little more discretionary Power than a Serjeant on an ordinary Jayler.

So judge by Appearances my Life has been aimed at in what I have been obliged to undergo. Therefore, my Friends may chuse to communicate the Information, which I now & then give, under the Cover of authentic Intelligence rather than Extract of a Letter: And, be assured, I pay a sacred Regard to the Truth of Facts.

There is a formidable as well as accursed Effort against the Colonies this Year. May God defend & prosper the american Cause. And, may YOU personally & relatively enjoy Health and every domestic Happiness.

Your Fellow Citizen suffering at a Distance from you, yet confidence to be sincerely Gentlemen your Friend & most humb. Serv.t

Halifax aug.st 14.th 1776. James Lovell

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